

VZCZCXRO9116
PP RUEHFK RUEHKS0 RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #4481 2700251
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 270251Z SEP 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7956
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3374
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 5787
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 2317
RUEHKS0/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 4101
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7030
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9179
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1897
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5233
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6114
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 004481

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - UNREST IN BURMA

LEAD STORIES: Most national dailies front-paged the results of their respective opinion polls pointing to high public support for the Fukuda administration.

1. "Burmese Junta in Stalemate" The business-oriented Nikkei editorialized (9/27): "Massive rallies have been taking place day after day in Burma to protest the junta's oppressive rule. Given the military regime's strict control, the demonstrations are a bold act. The junta's rule has continued for more than 40 years, and it is high time to end it, as it has become apparent that the Burmese people have lost confidence in the regime.... China can wield enormous influence over Burma. China appears to have been asking the Burmese government to exercise restraint in dealing with the protests in view of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Now is the time for China to exercise its clout more clearly, as Beijing bears a heavy responsibility. Burma is also a member of ASEAN, which is supposedly striving to build a community. What kind of community is ASEAN attempting to establish while it turns a blind eye to the authoritarian regime in Burma? "

2. "Foreign Countries Should Step in to Prevent Bloodshed" The liberal Asahi argued (9/27): "The use of force against peaceful protestors must not be tolerated. The military junta led by Gen. Than Shwe should begin dialogue with monks and citizen representatives immediately.... Beijing bears a heavy responsibility for the situation in Burma, as it is currently constructing a pipeline through Burma that will connect China with the Indian Ocean.... As the Burmese economy relies heavily on Chinese investment,

Beijing is in a position of great influence.... Leaders and foreign ministers from many countries happen to be in New York for a meeting of the UN General Assembly. UN Secretary General Ban should assemble the foreign ministers of China, India, and ASEAN members and have them call on Burma to exercise restraint."

SCHIEFFER